

NEWSPAPERS OF ALBERTA.



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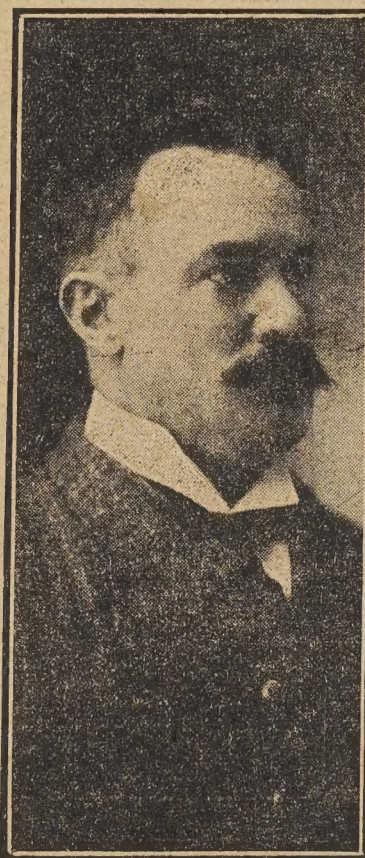


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R C EDWARDS,
Proprietor of "The Eye Opener"

The Morning Albertan,
Calgary, Feb. 29, 1908.

NEWSPAPERS OF ALBERTA.

No province or state in North America, no country in the world is better served with newspapers than the province of Alberta. This may seem to be a broad and sweeping statement but it is one which is borne out by the facts, and can be demonstrated even to the settler from Missouri. There are more papers in Alberta for the size of the province than in any other province or state. But quantity does not always make for quality in the newspaper field, but in this province there is the healthy rival between town and town that creates a high class of newspaper.

The expansion of the province may be seen in the development and growth of the newspapers. When the Albertan branched out into a daily paper on April 11, 1902, there was but one other daily newspaper in the Northwest Territories, which includes a district roughly made up of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. For some time the Albertan was little larger than an overgrown postage stamp, and the Calgary Herald, though larger, was little like the newspapers of the west at the present time.

At present there are seven daily papers in Alberta. During that time the newspaper population has more than doubled. In fact it has more than trebled.

In some countries the railway is the pioneer, which advances, preceding both newspapers, and even settlers. But conditions have somewhat changed and both settlement and

newspapers precede the iron rail. There are newspapers, and good newspapers, too, in towns which are not on any railroad map.

The newspaper of Alberta is full of atmosphere. It is the very voice of the people. Its interests are those of the people. Today the pioneer printer with his plant in a ten quart pail, sets up his shingle and starts a weekly and tomorrow it is gone. He is there and he has with him a modern up to date daily newspaper. That is the newspaper story of the newspapers in Alberta.

The newspapers of Alberta are superior to those of other parts of the country, because they have greater liberty and greater enterprise. In no place in America are such good daily papers printed in towns of similar size as in Edmonton and Calgary. In no cities does it cost so much to run newspapers. Cast about in Ontario or any of the states, and find out what newspapers are paying from \$250 up to \$400 a month for telegraph expenditure. That is something of an indication of the enterprise of the newspapers of Western Canada.

The early newspaper history of the province is a very early one. From the days that Frank Oliver, with his newspaper plant beside him, travelled overland in the Red River cart to Edmonton, there to establish a newspaper to the present day, the newspapers of Alberta have held firmly to the belief that they had some kind of a mission to perform, and that mission has ever been the building up of

the country, and the advancement of the country.

Shortly after Frank Oliver unloaded the plant and began work on the stick, Si Saunders and C.E.D. Wood established the Macleod Gazette, a newspaper, which has had an interesting, though not quite such an even career as its predecessor. Later on, the late T.B. Braden, started the Calgary Herald.

The newspapers kept pace with the development of the country. If any district ever gave an indication that a newspaper could be maintained and was needed, it was pretty certain that a newspaper had been established six or eight months before, and perhaps two. But despite the fact that no city has to make much of an effort to get the newspaper, yet it is surprising the small number of failures in the province.

The reason is that a town looks upon a newspaper as a civic institution which must be supported. And in that way they are wise for the reason that by the newspapers of a town, in many instances, a town is judged.

There are three daily newspapers in Calgary and two in Edmonton. The Albertan is published every morning during the year except Sundays. It has been established and under the control of the present management for the last six years.

The Calgary Herald, the pioneer daily paper of Western Canada, is published in the evening. In it there has recently been a change of management and it is now owned by the Southams of Hamilton.

The Calgary News, the latest addition to the Calgary family, is not yet one year old, and has made remarkable strides in that time. The guiding hand in the News is D. McGullicuddy.

Next in importance to the Calgary dailies are the Edmonton dailies, of which there are two. Frank Oliver's paper, the Bulletin, is an evening paper, managed by the celebrated politician and orator, Duncan Marshall.

The Edmonton Journal is published morning and evening.

In Lethbridge, the Herald is a three months' old baby. The Strathcona Chronicle is a few months older.

Medicine Hat is well served by two good weeklies, the News and the Times. In Lethbridge, the Lethbridge News is an old and well established weekly.

In the country further south, known as the Mormon country, David Elton, the clever and efficient president of the Alberta Press Association, has three good papers, published at Cardston, Magrath and Raymond.

Red Deer, Innisfail, Macleod, Lacombe, Wetaskiwin and Strathcona have each two papers. The other towns which have newspapers are Pincher Creek where the pioneer publisher, Si Saunders, still does business. Frank, Claresholm, Nanton, High River, Okotoks, Gleichen, Banff, Olds, Carstairs, Crossfield, Didsbury, Stettler, Ponoka, Leduc, Daysland, Camrose, Hardisty, Tofield, Fort Saskatchewan, and it is possible, even with this list, one or more is missing.

In addition to the papers already mentioned, there are other papers, hardly newspapers, which are of a very high order. Of these the Eye Opener takes the lead. It is one of the brightest and most humorous papers in America. The Saturday News, which is on a different plane, is a remarkably well edited paper.

The Farm and Ranch Review is published in Calgary, and two other farm papers are published in the province.

One French paper and one German paper is published in the province.

And all the newspapers are sounding the praises of this great province. They do deal with party politics, and very extensively with party politics, but the gospel of every one of them is Alberta first.

There is a free and easy way about a western paper which is absent from the eastern press, which makes the western newspaper, whatever its faults may be, interesting and attractive.

Alberta is well supplied with newspapers and whoever comes settling in any part of Alberta will be sure to find a friend, the newspaper, near at hand.